

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 217846

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217846

TOSEC 33

FOLTEL FM JAKARTA 05 NOV 73 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK
KUALA LUMPUR SINGAPORE MANILA MEDAN SURABAYA AND CINCPAC(FOR
POLAD) REPEATED TO YOU

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 13002

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MOPS, MY, SN, US, ID

SUBJECT: INDONESIAN REACTION TO US NAVY SHIP TRANSIT OF
MALACCA STRAITS

REF: A. JAKARTA 12925; B. JAKARTA 12826; C. JAKARTA 12782

D. CINCPAC 012324Z

1. FOREIGN DEPARTMENT SPPKESMAN NANA SUTRESNA TOLD PRESS
NOV 2 THAT INDONESIA IS "CONSIDERING" MEASURES TO BE
TAKEN REGARDING PASSAGE OF AMERICAN WARSHIPS THROUGH
MALACCA STRAITS BUT THAT NO DECISION COULD YET HE
MADE. SPOKESMAN OBSERVED THAT "OTHER DEPARTMENTS"
OF GOI (I.E., THE MILITARY) ALSO INVOLVED IN DECISIONS
BESIDES FOREIGN DEPARTMENT. ACCORDING KOMPAS, SPOKESMAN
NOTED THAT TALK OF "SANCTIONS" MEANINGLESS SINCE MALACCA
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PAGE 02 STATE 217846

STRAITS STILL NOT YET RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONALLY AS

TERRITORIAL WATERS AND FURTHER OBSERVED THAT THIS WOULD BE "SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATION AT SANTIAGO LOS CONFERENCE." ALSO ACCORDING KOMPAS, SUTRESNA POINTEDLY AVOIDED CRITICIZING MALAYSIAN STATEMENT OF NON-OBJECTION TO PASSAGE (AS REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS).

2. INDONESIA RAYA EDITORIAL OF NOV 5 REPEATED HARSH CRITICISM OF US (PARA 1 REF A) AND SUGGESTED THAT CURTAILING INCREASE OF OIL EXPORTS TO US WOULD BE THE KIND OF "FIRM WARNING" NEEDED. OTHERWISE SOVIETS AND JAPANESE WOULD SOON FOLLOW US LEAD IN FLOUTING TERRITORIAL RIGHTS, AND INDONESIA, SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA WOULD BE SUBJECT TO WORLD RIDICULE. (IN NOV 2 STATEMENT, FOREIGN DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WENT TO SOME LENGTH TO DENY THAT INDONESIA HAS INCREASED OIL EXPORTS TO US TO COMPENSATE FOR SHORTAGES CAUSED BY MIDDLE EAST CRISIS.)

3. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: ISSUE OF HANCOCK PASSAGE THROUGH MALACCA STRAITS UNLIKELY SIMPLY FADE AWAY AND ARE LIKELY EXPAND IF WE NEGLECT IT. PLEADING IGNORANCE WAS TEMPORARY EXPEDIENT; OFFERING RATIONALE THAT MALACCA STRAIT REPRESENTS DIFFERENT CASE FROM LOMBOK OR SUNDA VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO EXACERBATE ISSUE. WE HAVE ENHANCED RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA BY GIVING COURTESY NOTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF WARSHIPS THROUGH INDONESIA CLAIMED WATERS IN ARCHIPELAGO AND LOMBOK AND SUNDA STRAITS, (WHICH INDONESIANS HAVE TREATED AS PRIVILEGED INFORMATION IMPLYING COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO NAVIES) WHILE LEAVING TO LOS CONFERENCE THE ULTIMATE RESOLUTION OF OUR DIFFERENCES OF VIEW. REFUSING SIMILAR COURTESY NOTIFICATION OF OUR NAVAL VESSELS PASSING THROUGH THE MALACCA STRAITS WILL ONLY JOIN ISSUE WITH INDONESIA PREMATURELY AND IN PREJUDICED WAY PRIOR TO LOS CONFERENCE, IN MANNER MOST LIKELY TO IRRITATE GOI AND MAKE IT LESS WILLING TO TRY TO FIND MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION. MOREOVER, OPEN DISAGREEMENT ON THIS ISSUE COULD WELL CREATE OR COLOR OTHER ISSUES BETWEEN US. I AGAIN URGE I BE GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS

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PAGE 03 STATE 217846

ALONG THE LINES REQUESTED REFS B AND C WHICH I REGRET WERE NOT GIVEN ME BEFORE INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTED FOR AUSTRALIA AND BEFORE ISSUE BECAME SUBJECT, AS IT NOW APPARENTLY HAS, OF HIGH LEVEL INTERNAL DISCUSSION. (CONTRARY TO CINCPAC'S OBSERVATION (REF D) THAT IT WOULD NOT BE IN U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST TO PROVIDE COURTESY NOTIFICATION OF MOVEMENT OF WARSHIPS THROUGH MALACCA STRAIT,

I BELIEVE IT IS IN U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST TO PRESERVE
GOOD U.S.-INDONESIAN RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY WHEN
PRICE FOR IT IN THIS CASE IS SIMPLE, ORAL NOTIFICATION OF WHAT
BECOMES PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE WHEN VESSELS
STEAM BY SINGAPORE LIGHTHOUSE).
GALBRAITH
UNQTE RUSH

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